Record Nr. UNINA990008539930403321

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Titolo Between two empires : Ahmet Agaoglu and the New Tukey / A. Holly

Shissler

Pubbl/distr/stampa London; New York: Tauris, 2003

ISBN 1-86064-855-X

Descrizione fisica 280 p.: ill.; 24 cm

Disciplina 956

Locazione FSPBC

Collocazione XIV B 1889

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Record Nr. UNINA990005073880403321

Autore Torre, Guilliermo de <1900-1971>

Titolo La aventura estètica de nuestra edad / Guillermo de Torre

Pubbl/distr/stampa Barcelona, : Ed. Seix Barral, 1962

Descrizione fisica 350 p.; 18 cm

Locazione FLFBC

Collocazione PG 203

Lingua di pubblicazione Spagnolo

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

. Record Nr.	UNINA9910813852803321
Titolo	Environmental engineering for the 21st century: addressing grand challenges
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Washington, DC:,: The National Academies Press,, [2019] ©2019
ISBN	0-309-47655-0
	0-309-47653-4
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (125 pages)
Collana	Consensus Study Report
Disciplina	628
Soggetti	Environmental engineering - United States - 21st century
	Environmental sciences - United States - 21st century
	United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di contenuto	Grand challenge 1: sustainably supply food, water, and energy Grand challenge 2: curb climate change and adapt to its impacts Grand challenge 3: design a future without pollution or waste Grand challenge 4: create efficient, health, resilient cities Grand challenge 5: foster informed decisions and actions The ultimate challenge for environmental engineering: preparing the field to address a new future.

3.

4. Record Nr. UNINA9910148852203321 Autore Skweres Artur Titolo Homo Ludens as a Comic Character in Selected American Films / / by Artur Skweres Cham:,: Springer International Publishing:,: Imprint: Springer,, Pubbl/distr/stampa 2017 **ISBN** 9783319479675 Edizione [1st ed. 2017.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (XVIII, 97 p. 20 illus.) Collana Issues in Literature and Culture, , 2365-9688 791.43617 Disciplina Soggetti Art - Study and teaching Motion pictures, American Creativity and Arts Education American Film and TV Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Includes bibliographical references at the end of each chapters. Nota di bibliografia Comic Character as Homo Ludens -- Agon in Groundhog Day and Feds Nota di contenuto -- Alea in Spies Like Us, Bowfinger, Taking Care of Business, and Brewster's Millions -- Mimicry in ¡Three Amigos!, Austin Powers, and HouseSitter -- Ilinx in Rush Hour and Showtime -- Conclusion. Sommario/riassunto This book reveals the hitherto critically disregarded ludic elements in popular American comedy films, building on and expanding the theories developed by Johan Huizinga in his classic study Homo Ludens (1938) and Roger Caillois in Les jeux et les hommes (1958). To address the lack of attention paid to the play principle in film comedy studies, this book focuses exclusively on the elements typical of play that can be found in movies. It introduces two new categories describing play: óneiros and pragma, which allow analysis of how play in comedies is influenced by the relations between the player and non-players. The text is supplemented by the use of the author's drawings, which, because of their analytical and selective nature, are used as a tool for visual study. The play principle has a long tradition in American humor and the films examined here were chosen for their popularity and wide appeal, often acting as vehicles for Hollywood stars (e.g.Chevy Chase,

Dan Aykroyd, Bill Murray, Steve Martin, Eddie Murphy, Goldie Hawn, Mike Myers, Jackie Chan or Chris Tucker). The actors' status allowed

the filmmakers to construct situations in which the protagonists distanced themselves from the fictional situation. It is argued that the playful detachment from reality, typifying many of the fictional characters portrayed by actors with star status, is characteristic of the play principle in film. Another major consideration is the hotly debated notion of the accomplishment of goals in playful activities, and the book strongly supports the position that in narratives, play can (but does not have to) yield important results. The introduction of the categories of óneiros and pragma in play serves to highlight the complex relation between playfulness and practicality in the films discussed. Building on a comprehensive analysis of the ludic elements in selected popular American comedies, the book makes an important contribution to film studies, providing a unique perspective through its focus on the concept of homo ludens as a comic hero.